

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0804

FOR THE SECRETARY, NIMETZ AND VEST

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, TU

SUBJ: ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TURKEY

REF: A) STATE 24552 B) ANKARA 801

1. I APPRECIATE THE PROMPT RESPONSE TO MY TELEPHONE CALL AFTER THE MEETING WITH FONMIN OKCUN LAST NIGHT. THE CHANGES IN THE REPORT DETAILED IN REFTEL DO ANSWER SOME GOT CONCERNS BUT THEY UNFORTUNATELY FALL FAR SHOET IN TWO AREAS OF MAJOR CONCERN: A) THE REWRITING OF PARA 3(A), FIFTH SUBPARAGRAPH CONCERNING THE KURDS REMOVES THE MOST CONTENTIOUS PHRASTSAND SEEMS UNEXCEPTIONABLE OFSITS FACE. HOWEVER, THE FUNDAMENTAL TURKISH CONCERN IS THAT THE USG BY RAISING THE KURDISH PROBLEM IN AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION MAY BE SIGNALLING A NEW POLICY OF AIDING A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT AGAINST THE TURKISH STATE, REMEMBERING ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT WITH BARZANI IN EARLY 1970'S. THERE IS NO DENIAL IN TURKEY THAT KURDS DO EXIST AND THAT THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON THE ABILITY OF THE KURDISH COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE. NEVERTHELESS, 50
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YEARS AGO THERE WAS A SERIOUS SEPARATIST MOVEMENT AND IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN INCIPIENT THREATS THAT THE MOVEMENT WOULD BE REVIVIED. DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT HERE, PRIMIN ECEVIT SPECIFICALLY RAISED THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE US INVOLVEMENT WITH KURDISH SEPARATISM AND RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE THAT THE US WAS NOT INVOLVED. THIS IS VERY MUCH ON TURKS' MINDS. THE APPEARANCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

ON TURKEY WILL, IN TURKISH MINDS, REINFORCE SUSPICIONS TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. I THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO POINT OUT AGAIN THAT THE TURKS BELIEVE PARAGRAPH 4 IS NOT ONLY UNBALANCED BUT THAT IT DOES NOT FAITHFULLY REFLECT THE ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. (WE BELIEVE OKCUN'S ARGUMENT HAS SOME MERIT. THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DECISION REPORTED IN 77 STRASBOURG 236 IS A VERY BLAND STATEMENT, CERTAINLY LESS CONTENTIOUS THAN PARA 4 OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.) I AM PERSONALLY OFFENDED AND CONCERNED BY THE USE OF THE EMOTIONALLY CHARGED WORDS " MURDER, RAPE, LOOTING" WHICH ARE LIFTED FROM A GREEK CYPRIOT ALLEGATION AND ARE NOT BALANCED BY SIMILARLY DETAILED CLAIMS FROM TURKISH COUNTER CHARGES. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CANNOT BE DELETED AND MORE NEUTRAL WORDING USED.

2. U URGE THAT THESE SUGGESTED CHANGES BE CONSIDERED IN THE FULL CONTEXT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO PLACE THIS REPORT IN CONTEXT, THE TURKS DO NOT UNDERSTAND AND ITS PUBLICATION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER MODIFICATION ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED ABOVE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO WORK OUR A MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

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